

Patent
Serial No. 10/502,526
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of April 3, 2006

REMARKS

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-17 have been canceled, without prejudice. The Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein, either at a later time during the prosecution of this application or any continuing applications. New claims 31-43 are merely originally filed claims 1-13 rewritten to better conform to U.S. practice, such as being placed in U.S. "method form", changing "characterized" to --wherein--, changing dependent claims to begin with "the" etc. The claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the outstanding Official Action, restriction was required as between Claims 1-13 and 18-30, drawn to a method and apparatus for handling data on a data storage apparatus; and Claims 14-17, drawn to a data storage apparatus.

In response, Applicant hereby elects Claims 1-13, resubmitted as Claims 31-43, and 18-30 for an examination on the merits, without prejudice to Applicant's right to subsequently file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims.

Applicant's accordingly respectfully request examination on the merits of Claims 18-43.

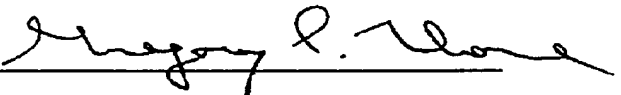
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In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Gregory L. Thorne, Reg. 39,398
Attorney for Applicant(s)
May 3, 2006

THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101